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The Urban District Council
of Carnforth.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

Carnforth :

WEEKS, PRINTER, MARKET STREET.

—
1926.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1922, I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District.

This is an Ordinary Report, and is on the lines indicated in Circular 648 of the Ministry of Health,

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD S. JACKSON, M.D., C.M.

June, 1926.

(Information relating to the Area and the circumstances of the year).

General Statistics.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,504
Population (Census 1921)	3,247.	Estimated 1925	...	...	...	...	...	3,269
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	781
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	822
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£	15,910 15s. od.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£	66 5s. 10d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births	56	30	26
Deaths	41	22	19
Birth Rate (Registrar General)	...	...	17.1
Death Rate (Registrar-General)	...	...	12.5
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births	89		

Causes of Deaths.

	Male.	Female.
Enteric Fever	1	0
Measles	1	0
Influenza	2	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
Cancer	3	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	2
Heart Disease	2	0
Arteria Sclerosis	2	0
Pneumonia, all forms	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach	1	0
Premature Birth	3	2
Other defined diseases	4	9

Compared with 1924 there were 7 more deaths.

Notifiable Diseases during 1925.

CASES NOTIFIED.

DISEASE.	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1					1 to 2					2 to 3					3 to 4					4 to 5					5 to 10					Total Cases Rem'd to Hospital
		...	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...		
Scarlet Fever	9	...	1	...	2	1	4	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	9			
Diphtheria, including Menstruous Croup ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum (Vision unimpaired 1)	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	17																															

TOTAL DEATHS.

Scarlet Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, including Menstruous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1																													

The Cases isolated at Home have been visited and
Disinfectant supplied.

(16 houses have been fumigated).

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority.

Crag Bank Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital, owned by the Council, is an iron structure situated at Crag Bank, and has two wards, each to hold about six beds. There is a separate room for two nurses, a caretaker's detached residence, and the necessary out-buildings. It is built on a very good and dry eminence and is well isolated.

The Council also have arrangements with the Lancaster Corporation for the acceptance, at the Isolation Hospital, Lancaster, of any Infectious cases that might be forwarded.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a.) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

The Council has a horse ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious diseases to the Isolation Hospital. It is kept in the centre of the town and horsed from adjacent livery stables.

(b.) FOR NON INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.

A Motor Ambulance is available by arrangement with the Carnforth Iron Co. Ltd., and from whom a prompt service is given.

Summary (for reference) of Nursing Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are no Private Nursing Homes in the district from which nurses can be obtained, the nearest being at Ulverston.

There is available a District Nurse, supplied by the Carnforth Nursing Association, a voluntary Association, affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nursing.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS,
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

There is no special provision for these in the district.

MIDWIVES.

There is only one Midwife registered in the district.

Sewers and Sewage.

The Sewage of the district is disposed of by running into a settling tank, the liquid running into the river Keer which is a tidal stream. The sludge is used for agricultural purposes. Periodical flushing of all sewers is regularly carried out by means of emptying a ton of water from the water-cart through a twelve inch valve down the manholes.

During the year, approximately 600 yards of sewers, together with sewage disposal plant, consisting of screening chambers, settling tanks, filter beds, etc., have been provided for a portion of the Crag Bank district, a further scheme is contemplated, bringing in the whole of this district.

The present state of the Closet accommodation in the district is as follows :

Privy Middens, No. of Middens	...	202
No. of Closets attached to these Middens	202	
No. of Pail Closets	...	nil.
No. of Fresh Water Closets	...	535
No. of Waste Water Closets	...	41
No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	417	
No. of Moveable Ashbins for refuse	159	

Conversions during the year 1925 :

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water W.C.'s 16.

No. of Privies, situate within the Council's present Sewage System—132.

No. of Houses at which Moveable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles—34.

The Council have decided to abolish all privy middens within the Council's present sewage scheme.

Scavenging.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council's own staff for the greater portion of the district, the outlying farmers, etc. dealing with their own refuse.

The refuse is disposed of on the Tipping ground purchased for that purpose.

The number of receptacles emptied are :

Bins	:	159
Ashpits	:	619
		—
Total		778

Sanitary Inspections.

Defects or Nuisances, No. discovered	75	No. abated	68
No. of Notices served, informal ...	66	Statutory	nil.
Legal proceedings ...	... nil.	Result	nil.

Factories and Workshops.

The different factories and workshops have been regularly inspected and all are kept in a thoroughly sanitary condition and answer the requirements of the Act.

Bakehouses. There are four bakehouses in the district, all are partly above ground, are properly ventilated and well kept.

The other Workshops and Factories are as follows :

Boot & Shoe Repairers	...	3
Tailors	...	1
Dressmakers, etc.	...	4
Printers	...	2
Saw-mill, & Joinery works	...	8
Coach Builders	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	2
Wagon Repair Shops...	...	2

Slaughterhouses. There are five slaughterhouses in the district, only one being of modern construction, the remaining four being corrugated iron and wood structures.

Lime-washing has been duly carried out at proper times at these premises.

Cowsheds and Dairies. The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected, and periodical Lime-washing carried out.

Lodginghouses. There is no common lodginghouse in the district.

Housing—General Observations and Conclusions.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

I consider that the housing accommodation of the working classes is very unsatisfactory, as several families are living in one house, which is likely to cause a serious state of over-crowding in the near future.

The Council are erecting houses under the Housing Act of 1924.

Total number of houses in scheme	...	44
Number in course of erection	...	20

Four new houses at Crag Bank have been completed during the year.

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Number of Inspections (housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	100
Number of Inspections (Housing Inspection of District Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	25

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer	2
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Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

By Owners—75.				
By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil

Nuisances

(Including 8 outstanding cases of last year.)

Defective Ashpits	...	...	...	...	37
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	3
Dilapidation of General Defects	...	...	...	...	3
Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Sanitary Fittings	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	20
Privy Conversions	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Gas Mains	...	...	...	...	2
—					
Total					83

I have paid 386 visits, inspecting nuisances and work in progress.

Water Supply.

I consider the Water supply satisfactory and pure. It is obtained from the Carnforth Water Co.'s reservoir, situate at Withets, capacity 70,000,000 gallons.; the gathering ground for which is partly of a peaty and partly of a sandstone nature, consequently the water is not hard, and is good for all domestic purposes.

The water passes through a system of Carbon Filters before being disposed of to the district.

In addition to the above reservoir, the Water Company obtain a supply of 2,450,000 gallons. per year from the Manchester Corporation Mains. The outlying farms and cottages being dependant upon springs and wells.

The following table shows the source of water supply :

No. of houses using Water Co.'s supply 717

No. of houses using Rain and Wells water 61

During the year the Carnforth Water Works Co. have laid down a new main of approximately 800 yds. to supply the Crag Bank District. Further negotiations are proceeding between the Council and the said Water Company to supply the whole of this district.

